jointly established by United Nations Environment Programme and World Meteorological Organization, the global-average surface temperature has increased since 1861. Over the 20th century the increase has been 0.6 ± 0.2 degree centigrade. Most of the warming occurred during two periods, 1910 to 1945 and 1976 to 2000. The increase in concentrations of greenhouse gases of anthropogenic origin in the atmosphere is attributed to the rise in temperature. The existing legal and policy framework in India adequately addresses the concerns of global warming.

**Decline in forest cover**

3853. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise forest cover in 2000, as compared to 1960;

(b) whether the forest coverage is on the decline; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to increase forest cover in various States, especially in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India is assessing forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 using satellite data. The results of first six assessments show marginal decline in forest cover from 19.49% to 19.27%. In the latest seventh assessment of the period from 1995 to 1998, the forest cover of the country has shown a marginal increase to 19.39%. State-wise details of forest cover as per the seventh assessment is given in the statement. *(See* below).

(c) Various important steps taken by the Government including State of Madhya Pradesh for increasing forest cover are:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State-UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial • assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to all StatcAJT Governments to

involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.

(iv) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate the diversion of forest lands.

(v) A network of protected areas has been established.

(vi) Ministry has prepared a National Forestry Action Plan to enhance the contribution of forestry and tree resources for ecological stability and people centered developement through improvement in investment for conservation and development of forest resources.

**Statement**

*Distribution of forest cover in States/UTs as per State of Forest Report 1999 (in sq. km.)*

Annexure"

| StatdJT | Geographic Area | Forest cover | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Area | Per cent |
| Andhra Pradesh | 275,068 | 44,229 | 16.08 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 83,743 | 68,847 | 82.21 |
| Assam | 78,438 | 23,688 | 33.2 |
| Bihar | 173,877 | 26,474 | 15.23 |
| Goa | 3,702 | 1,251 | 33.8 |
| Gujarat | 196,024 | 12,965 | 6.61 |
| Haryana | 44,212 | 964 | 2.18 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 55,673 | 13,082 | 23.50 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 222,235 | 20,441 | 9.20 |
| Karnataka | 191,791 | 32,467 | 16.93 |
| Kerala | 38,863 | 10,323 | 26.56 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 443,446 | 131,830 | 29.73 |
| Maharashtra | 307,690 | 46,672 | 15.29 |
| Manipur | 22,327 | 17,384 | 77.86 |
| Meghalaya | 22,429 | 15,633 | 69.7 |

| StateUT | Geographic Area | Forest cover | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Area | Per cent |
| Mizoram | 21,081 | 18,338 | 86.99 |
| Nagaland | 16,579 | 14,164 | 85.43 |
| Orissa | 155,707 | 47,033 | 30.2 |
| Punjab | 50,362 | 1,412 | 2.80 |
| Rajasthan | 342,239 | 13,871 | 4.05 |
| Sikkim | 7,096 | 3,118 | 43.94 |
| Tamil Nadu | 130,058 | 17,078 | 13.13 |
| Tripura | 10,486 | 5,745 | 57.00 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 294,411 | 34,016 | 11.55 |
| West Bengal | 88,752 | 8,362 | 9.42 |
| A & N Islands | 8,249 | 7,606 | 92.21 |
| Chandigarh | 114 | 7 | 6.14 |
| Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 491 | 202 | 41.14 |
| Daman & Diu | 112 | 3 | 2.68 |
| Delhi | 1,483 | 88 | 5.93 |
| Lakshdweep | 32 | 0 | Nil |
| Pondicherry | 493 | 0 | Nil |
| TOTAL: | 3,287,263 | 637,293 | 19.39 |

**Chopping of trees in Corbett Park**

3854. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 7000 trees were chopped down recently right through the heart of the Corbett Tiger Reserve, for construction of road;

(b) if so, whether the concerned department sought prior permission of the Ministry, before cutting the trees;

(c) if not, what action is contemplated against them;

(d) how Government propose to stop recurrence of such felling of trees in other reserves of the country; and

(e) whether Government would evolve any fresh guidelines, keeping in view the recent development in this area?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) According to the report furnished by the Field Director, Corbett National Park, 6841 trees were marked and felled between Pakhro and Kikri so as to clear the existing old